

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-20, as amended, and new claims 21-22 appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration. The new claims are based on original claims 5 and 6 but depend from claim 7. The entry of these new claims would be appreciated.

The allowance of claims 15-17 and the indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9-12 and 14 is noted with appreciation. To overcome all current rejections and facilitate the allowance of this application, the applicant has:

- re-written claim 1 with the features that appeared in allowable claim 3,
- cancelled claim 3,
- amended claim 9 to correct the informality appearing therein,
- rewritten claim 7 in independent form, and
- revised claim 18 to depend from claim 1.

These changes place independent claims 1 and 7 in condition for allowance. As claims 2, 4-5, 8-14 and 21-22 depend either from claim 1 or 7, these claims are also allowable.

Finally, claims 6, 18-20 and presumable claim 22 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected embodiment. As these claims depend from allowable claims 1 or 7, these claims should also be allowed.

In view of the above, it is believed that all current claims, namely claims 1, 2, and 4-22, are in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. Should any issues remain, the undersigned attorney is available to discuss them in order to expedite the eventual allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

6-5-06


Allan A. Fanucci (Reg. No. 30,256)

WINSTON & STRAWN LLP
Customer Number 28765
(212) 294-3311